

920602-99890

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF)
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Robertson, Graham) Examiner: Madeline Gonzalez
)
SERIAL NO.: 10/543,042) Art Unit: 1797
)
FILED: July 21, 2005) Customer Number: 23644
)
FOR: Filtering Screen) Confirmation Number: 9184

**RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION AND
IN VIEW OF COMMENTS RAISED IN ADVISORY ACTION OF
DECEMBER 21, 2009**

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Being filed concurrently herewith is a Request for Continued Examination so that the Examiner may consider and enter the response filed December 15, 2009. In view of the comments made by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, it is believed appropriate to respond further.

On page 2 of the Advisory Action, the Examiner asserts that Adams does disclose the orientation of warp and weft wires in relation to the support, referring to Figures 4 to 13. However, these Figures simply show a small fragment of screen in isolation and include no disclosure of an associated support structure.

The Examiner also asserts that Adams teaches bonding of a screen to a frame and bonding to lattice struts, referring to Figure 17A and paragraphs 0057 and 0060. Again, it is submitted that this is wrong as these disclosures relate to the relationship between different screens and not between a screen and support - see, for example, paragraph 0072 on page 6 of Adams.

In a discussion bridging pages 2 and 3 of the action, the Examiner effectively asserts that claim 18 does not specify that all of the warp wires are of greater cross-sectional area than all of

the weft wires. This requirement is at least implicit in the present claim language, but for the avoidance of any doubt claim 18 has been amended to make this explicit. Line 9 of claim 18 now reads:

“openings in the weave, the warp wires all have a greater cross-sectional area than all the weft wires,”.

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that there appears to be no difference between the embodiment of Figure 6 (prior art) and the embodiment of Figure 8 (the invention). This is incorrect, and applicant believes that it would be useful to explain to the Examiner why this statement is incorrect. The drawings are somewhat schematic and shown on different scales, which may perhaps have confused the Examiner somewhat.

Figure 7 illustrates a prior art screen arrangement including two similar screen support frames (support structures) in side-by-side relationship, held in place by clamps. Each support frame comprises an array of rectangular openings (16 x 10). Figure 6 shows to an enlarged scale a small fragment of one such support frame, showing just four of the rectangular openings. In the prior art, a panel of woven wire cloth with warp and weft wires defining rectangular openings is located on top of the frames in the orientation illustrated in Figure 6 and 7. Thus, in the prior art the cloth is oriented with the longer dimension of the rectangular openings of the cloth (aligned with the warp direction) parallel to the longer dimension of the openings in the support frame. Solids flow over the screen is in a top-bottom direction as shown in Figures 6 and 7, i.e. aligned with the longer dimension of the rectangular openings in the cloth (see the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11).

In contrast, Figure 8 illustrates an arrangement in accordance with the present invention. Figure 8 shows a similar pair of support frames to those shown in Figure 7, but differs from Figure 7 in the orientation of the cloth relative to the support frames. In the present invention, the cloth is oriented at right angles in relation to the cloth in the prior art as shown in Figure 7. Thus, in Figure 8, the cloth is oriented such that the longer dimension of the openings in the cloth (aligned with the warp direction) is parallel to the shorter sides (width dimension) of the rectangular openings of the support frames. With this orientation of cloth, solids flow over the screen is aligned with the weft direction of the cloth. This had hitherto been thought to be

detrimental to screen performance, but has been found by the present inventors not to be the case (see page 11 paragraph and the following discussion).

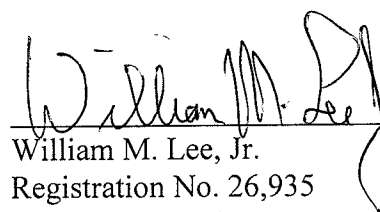
Adopting this novel orientation of the cloth in relation to the support frame brings benefits in terms of greater resistance to stresses and more efficient and cheaper production of screens of standardized size. These benefits are discussed in the specification, e.g. in the last paragraph of page 3, on page 6 and page 12.

It is hoped that such an explanation will be of assistance to the Examiner.

It is believed that the above, in combination with the comments of the non-entered response, distinguish the invention from the prior art and place the claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore urged.

January 20, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

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